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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 22 October 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of Costa Rica and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Joint statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and Costa Rica of 16 October 1997 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the enclosed statement and this letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 58, 60, 97, 98 and 157, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sergei V. LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations

(Signed) Fernando BERROCAL SOTO
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations

ANNEX

Joint statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and Costa Rica, issued in Moscow on 16 October 1997

From 14 to 17 October 1997, Mr. Fernando E. Naranjo Villalobos, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Costa Rica, paid an official visit to the Russian Federation.

During the course of the first official visit at such a level in the whole history of Russian-Costa Rican relations, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Russia, Mr. E. M. Primakov, and of Costa Rica, Mr. F. Naranjo Villalobos, stressed the importance of the tradition of over a century of contacts and ties between the two States, the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of which had been widely celebrated this year in both countries.

It was emphasized that Costa Rica was the first country in Central America to establish and develop relations with Russia. The stability and maturity of those relations provided a solid foundation for the further development of political dialogue and increased cooperation between the two States.

The Ministers agreed that Russia and Costa Rica should make their relationship an even closer one, and should actively support the efforts of the international community towards the strengthening of peace by strict compliance with the obligations laid down in the Charter of the United Nations and with the universally recognized rules of international law.

They declared themselves in favour of a new and more democratic world order based on the strengthening of collective security and the development of cooperation in the political, economic, social and environmental spheres and in the defence of human rights.

Noting that both countries were founding Members of the United Nations and actively involved in the work of the Security Council, the Ministers paid special attention to questions concerning the reform and strengthening of the role of the Organization. In that connection, they responded positively to the proposal by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and stressed the importance of a comprehensive approach to reform which took into account all proposals designed to ensure the Organization's greater efficiency.

The Ministers reiterated that sanctions imposed by the Security Council were one of the instruments that could help to achieve effective compliance with its resolutions. They believed that such sanctions should be imposed only in exceptional cases, when there was a real threat to international peace and security and when all available means had been exhausted. In particular, the Ministers expressed their concern over the consequences which such sanctions could have for the civilian population, and declared themselves in favour of careful implementation, in proportion to the real dangers and with clear time limits.

The Ministers stressed the indissoluble link between security, freedom, economic growth, social justice and environmental protection, all of which formed the basis for sustainable development.

They also declared themselves in favour of ensuring worldwide sustainable development through decisive international action, and confirmed their support for the principles that had emerged from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. In that connection, they expressed their willingness to work together to protect the environment.

The Ministers attached great importance to the role of the United Nations in promoting and managing international cooperation. They believed it was important to encourage a more flexible, transparent and coordinated interaction between the Organization and the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the other regional and multilateral organizations.

They noted that an important guideline for the activities of the United Nations was the implementation of the principles set out in the Agenda for Development, which had been agreed upon by all Member States and was based on a comprehensive approach to the problems of development.

In their analysis of the situation in Latin America, they stressed the growing importance of the region, both in geopolitical terms and with respect to the world economy, in the structure of the multipolar world that was emerging. They noted the significance of developments in the region: the stabilization of the political situation, the strengthening of democratic bases, the economic boom and the active pursuit of regional and subregional integration. The Russian side reaffirmed its policy of strengthening its multilateral and bilateral relations with the countries of the region.

The Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the great advances made in Central America following the end of the armed conflicts and reiterated their appeal to the world community to continue to provide assistance to countries in the subregion in order to consolidate democracy and promote sustainable development and integration.

The Ministers declared themselves firmly in support of respect for all human rights, including the rights of minorities. They agreed to cooperate with a view to reducing abuses of such rights, as well as all incidences of intolerance, aggressive nationalism and racism.

With regard to the processes of the building and consolidation of democracy, they emphasized the importance of having a State governed by the rule of law, firmly rooted in the independence of the judiciary, and of having electoral institutions in a framework of pluralism and unrestricted freedom of thought.

The Ministers exchanged views on the social and political changes and economic reforms taking place in their countries.

With a view to renewing and broadening the legal basis for cooperation between Russia and Costa Rica, Mr. E. M. Primakov and Mr. F. E. Naranjo Villalobos signed an intergovernmental agreement on the abolition of visas for holders of diplomatic and service passports, and a programme of cultural and scientific cooperation for the years 1998-2000. The Ministers also agreed to continue negotiations for the speedy signing of a trade agreement, an agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation, a protocol on the equivalence of educational qualifications and levels, an agreement on cooperation in the area of tourism, and an agreement on cooperation in physical culture and sports, and to draft an agreement on cooperation to combat illegal trafficking in drugs and other psychotropic substances.

The Ministers decided to hold more in-depth, high-level political consultations, as well as more consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries, which would be facilitated by the intergovernmental protocol on political consultations which had been signed during the visit.

They stressed that Russia and Costa Rica were striving to make their economic and trade ties more efficient and direct. The Ministers welcomed the recently concluded agreement on cooperation between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Russia and the Costa Rican Union of Chambers and Associations of Private Enterprise, as well as the prominent participation in the programme of the official visit to Russia of a group of Costa Rican businessmen.

Mr. Primakov and Mr. Naranjo Villalobos declared themselves in favour of pursuing further the political dialogue between the two countries, as well as developing links between their parliaments, and expressed their satisfaction with the visit to Russia by Costa Rican parliamentarians in September 1997.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome accorded to him and his delegation during their visit to the Russian Federation, and invited Mr. E. M. Primakov to pay a reciprocal official visit to Costa Rica on a date to be agreed through the usual diplomatic channel.

(Signed) E. M. PRIMAKOV
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation

(Signed) F. E. NARANJO VILLALOBOS
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Costa Rica